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June 4, 2003

David Hyman
Special Counsel
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20580

Re: Health Care Competition Law and Policy Hearings

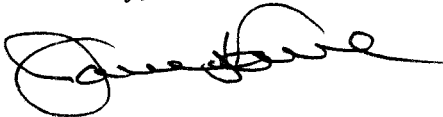
Dear Mr. Hyman:

During the Health Care hearings on 4/11/03 involving a look at market practices in Little Rock, Arkansas, I was asked by Commissioner Anthony why St. Vincent Health System had lost market share. My remarks were critical of St. Vincent and I outlined several problem areas based on my personal experience and that of my patients who have been there. In all fairness it should be stated that the current administration inherited these problems and have been working diligently to correct the deficiencies.

I believe that they have made significant progress in a relatively short period of time. Several of the cardiac wards have been refurbished, new catheterization equipment has been installed, and the echo equipment has been upgraded. Care in the intensive care units continues to be good. While many of these improvements are cosmetic, the overall level of care does seem to have risen, and the attitude of the nurses is better.

In short, although St. Vincent has not quite regained the level of care and esteem in the community it once had, significant progress toward recovery has been made by the current administration and I expect this will continue.

Sincerely,



James J. Kane, M.D.

cc. Steve Mansfield, CEO St. Vincent Health System